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The Dodd Inquiry

Having asked his senatorial colleagues to look into the improprieties charged against him, Sen. Thomas J. Dodd is entitled to the kind of inquiry that will dispose of those charges conclusively, one way or another. The creditable and honorable character of his request for a judgment by his peers deserves a resolution that will leave no room for subsequent allegations of whitewashing or of favoritism.

Columnists Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson have accused Mr. Dodd of performing chores for a registered foreign agent, of accepting favors from companies the Senator helped on Government contracts, and of depositing in his personal account thousands of dollars contributed to his election campaign. These are specific enough, we suppose, to be susceptible of clear verification. Sen. Wayne Morse is quite right, however, in saying that the problem can be resolved only through public hearings. Anything done under cover of darkness in this case is bound to nurture distrust.

We share, and we think the public generally shares, the view expressed by Senators Morse and Stephen Young that as the latter put it, "the integrity and dignity of the United States Senate is at stake." For what the country wants to know is whether the practices ascribed to Senator Dodd are condoned by Senators generally. The Senate can clear its own reputation as well as Senator Dodd's only by bringing this whole issue into the full light of day.